

## Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-13 ADP-00 INT-08 EB-11 COME-00 L-03

AGR-20 AID-20 XMB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /114 W  
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R 100002Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7394  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5896

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR MC KERNAN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR/MX

SUBJ: IATTC: PROPOSED VISIT BY AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN

REF: GENEVA 4163

1. RFO AND EMBOFF CALLED ON CASTRO Y CASTRO AUGUST 8 TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF PROPOSED VISIT BY AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN. AT OUTSET, CASTRO Y CASTRO INTIMATED THAT IDEA OF VISIT ORIGINATED WITH MEDINA NERI. IN PRESENCE OF EMBREP, HE TRIED TO CALL MEDINA, AND THEN SPOKE TO ONE OF LATTER'S ASSISTANTS, REFERRING TO MEDINA'S INTEREST IN HAVING AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN SEE MEXICAN INSTALLATIONS AT FIRST HAND.

2. ITINERARY FOR PROPOSED VISIT NOT YET SET (CASTRO Y CASTRO PROMISED WRITTEN SUGGESTIONS WITHIN A DAY OR TWO). HOWEVER, IDEA WOULD BE TO SPEND 2 OR 3 DAYS VISITING VESSELS, PORT FACILITIES, PACKING PLANTS, AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS RELATED TO MEXICAN FISHING INDUSTRY. CASTRO Y CASTRO IS CONVINCED THAT THIS PHYSICAL IMPRESSION WOULD BE HELPFUL IN EXPLAINING MEXICO'S POSITION BOTH TO AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN AND LATER AT IATTC MEETINGS.

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3. MORE IMPORTANT WOULD BE "INFORMAL TALKS" HELD DURING

PROPOSED VISIT. CASTRO Y CASTRO NOTED THAT MEXICANS HAVE BEEN ON RECORD FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS AS BEING IN DISAGREEMENT WITH PRESENT IATTC QUOTA SYSTEM. HE STATED THAT AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN HIMSELF HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE WORKING GROUPS CHARGED WITH DEVISING A NEW REGULATORY SYSTEM. FOR VARIOUS REASONS THESE WORKING GROUPS DID NOT MEET DURING THE LAST YEAR. FURTHER COMMENTING ON EXISTING QUOTAS, CASTRO Y CASTRO REVEALED GOM CONCERN THAT SPECIAL EXEMPTION MADE IN CONNECTION WITH MEXICAN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW VESSELS WILL LAPSE THIS YEAR BEFORE THOSE VESSELS EFFECTIVELY HAVE ENTERED INTO SERVICE.

4. WHEN EMBREPS REFERRED TO MEDINA NERI'S RECENT STATEMENTS, CASTRO Y CASTRO REMARKED WITH SOME ASPERITY THAT "YOU READ MEDINA NERI'S STATEMENTS, BUT PAY NO ATTENTION TO MY OWN". HE THEN PROCEEDED ONCE AGAIN TO DEMONSTRATE HIS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF CONSERVATION ISSUES INVOLVED AND HENCE NEED FOR SOME REGULATORY SYSTEM. HOWEVER, IN REITERATION OF GOM'S PREVIOUS POSITION, HE FELT SUCH A SYSTEM SHOULD BE BASED ON CONCEPT THAT DURING LIFE CYCLE, TUNA POPULATION DEPENDS ON LAND-FED NUTRIENTS; ACCORDINGLY, RIPARIAN STATE SHOULD HAVE SOME FORM OF SPECIAL CONTROL OVER THIS RESOURCE. CASTRO Y CASTRO REMAINS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THIS MEXICAN POSITION IS SCIENTIFICALLY DEFENSIBLE WHEN PUT UP AGAINST USG ARGUMENTS ON MIGRATORY SPECIES.

5. QUESTION OF TIMING OF NEXT IATTC DID NOT COME UP DURING CONVERSATION.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL FORWARD FURTHER INFORMATION AS AVAILABLE. IN MEANTIME, WE ENDORSE IDEA OF VISIT BY AMBASSADOR MCKERNAN. ALTHOUGH CASTRO Y CASTRO SHOWED NO GIVE IN HIS ALREADY KNOWN POSITIONS, INFORMAL BILATERAL TALKS MAY REVEAL POTENTIAL AREAS FOR MUTUAL AGREEMENT.  
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